GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4911
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
MAJULI ISLAND
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3438 on August 24, 2006 and state:

(a) whether the information regarding world heritage status of Majuli island is compiled and sent to UNESCO as assured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, para-wise status thereof, reasons for delay, agency entrusted, target set for their submission;

(d) whether Government of Assam has fulfilled its obligation towards legislative protection of Majuli along with information of an authority under the law and for preparation of the management plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the composition of the authority so created allocation made, activities prescribed, achievement made during last one year and proposed for 2007; and

(f) if not, reasons for delay and targeted response committed within the year?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) The World Heritage Committee referred the nomination of Majuli Island for World to Heritage Status to the State Party for additional information on the proposal like the (c) influence of sattras on the landscape, inventory of architecture and the moveable heritage, status of legal protection of the site, cultural tourism strategy etc.

Though information on the above points were submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its meeting held in July 2006, the Committee has desired further elaboration on the above points and detailed documentation.

As a follow up action, the Archaeological Survey of India has sought the services of experts for compiling the information and proper documentation. Discussions were also held with the State Government and an action plan has been drawn up for collecting the required information and for submitting the same to the World Heritage Committee before February 2008, as required under the Operational Guidelines. The works in this connection are on.

(d) The Government of Assam has enacted a legislation namely `The Majuli Cultural to Landscape Region Act, 2006` which would put in place the legal protection for the (f) Majuli Island as required by the World Heritage Committee. Under Section 5 of the Act, a Management Authority has been constituted for the Majuli cultural landscape with the Chief Secretary, Assam as the chairperson. The constitution of the Management Authority is at Annexure.

As provided under Section 19 of the Act, framing of the rules is in the final stages. The Act provides for the State Government to make subventions and advance loans to the Authority. The Authority shall have powers to protect the cultural resources of Majuli, implement the management plan, coordinate and monitor the developmental activities, take steps for disaster mitigation and prepare risk preparedness plan for the entire Majuli cultural landscape region. The Act has also provided adequate powers on the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Authority for carrying out the above functions.